(b) if so, by when it will be formed?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNA MURTHI): (a) and (b) The Government is committed to the idea of setting up a National Judicial Commission which would make recommendations forjudicial appointments in the Supreme Court and the High Courts as also draw up a Code of Ethics for the judges.

Since the Government is still in the process of building a national consensus over the proposal to set up of a National Judicial Commission leading to an amendment to the Constitution of India, it will not be feasible to indicate a timeframe in this regard.

**Bifurcation of National Commission for SCs and STs**

*5. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHAN A RAO:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bifurcate the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal for bifurcation of the Commission is under consideration.

(b) To give focused attention for the Welfare and Development of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes.

**Increase in seats in Dental and Medical Colleges**

*6. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Admissions: 76 Dental, Medical Colleges out", which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 17th June, 2002; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to increase seats in Dental and Medical Colleges so that students do not suffer because of *mala fide* intentions of some Private and Government Medical Colleges?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news item relates to non-renewal of permission in respect of Medical and Dental Colleges for admitting students during 2002-03. As per provisions of the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Act, 1993 and the Dentists (Amendment) Act, 1993 and the Regulations framed thereunder, the Central Government permission is granted for starting of a Medical/Dental College for one year. This permission is renewed on yearly basis after verification of the achievement of annual targets in respect of creation of infrastructure facilities. In case of failure of the college authorities to meet the annual target of development of infrastructure, the annual renewal of permission is not granted. The college accordingly cannot admit students unless they rectify the deficiencies to the satisfaction of the Professional Councils and the Government of India.

Further this process of renewal of permission is a continuous one and the Government renews the permission as and when the recommendations of the Professional Councils are received. As on 11 -6-2002, permission of 76 colleges (45 dental colleges and 31 medical colleges) was not renewed. However, subsequently the permission of 9 dental and 4 medical collges have been renewed till date.

All the State Governments/Universities have been informed about the status of each college for admission during 2002-03. The State Governments have also been advised to check from Government of India before allotting students to a medical/dental college within their jurisdiction whether permission has been renewed in respect of that particular college. The status of admission in medical and dental colleges has also been made available on this Ministry's website http/mohfw.nic.in for information of the general public which is continuously updated. The concerned professional councils have also been advised to caution public in respect of the colleges, which are eligible for admission during 2002-03.

Government has granted permission to 14 new medical and 17 dental colleges since 1-1-2001 resulting in increase of intake capacity of 1400 in medical and 1320 in dental colleges.